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May 10, 2005

The Honorable Bill Nelson  
US Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

With more than 18,000 members, the American Academy of Neurology (AAN) is the world's leading professional society for neurologists, neuroscientists and neuroscience professionals. Patients treated by neurologists are among the most vulnerable in our society. For this reason, the AAN truly appreciates your leadership in introducing the "Advance Directives Improvement and Education Act of 2005."

Neurologists know how important advance care planning is when they treat patients with neurological disease or traumatic brain injury. This legislation will work to educate Americans about the need for these critical documents while helping to provide resources, information and motivation to learn about end of life resources. It will help to alleviate the pain that some families face when the wishes of their family members are unknown.

Again, we thank you and your cosponsors and all those who join in the support of this important legislation. We hope to work with you to ensure passage of this important legislation. If you should have questions or comments on this letter, please contact Mike Amery in our Washington office at (202) 349-4299.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Swift, MD  
President